Drought assistance to Karnataka and Rajasthan

171. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains and financial assistance demanded by Karnataka and Rajasthan to meet the drought conditions during 2002 and 2003, so far;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains and financial assistance provided to each of them against their demand; and

(c) how much is yet to be provided during the remaining period of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) and (b) Details of Central assistance demanded and provided to the Stales of Karnataka and Rajasthan for the drought of 2002-03 is indicated below:-

NCCF (Rs. in crores)		Share of CRF	Central Total	FOODGRAINS UNDER SGRY (SC) (lakh MTs.)	
State	Assistance Demanded			Quantity Demanded	Quantity Provided
	Assistance Provided				
Karnataka	1562.85 207.65*	61.66	269.31	11.09	7.20
Rajasthan	7519.76 889.61	219.09	1105.70	56.00	32.05

*After adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State, as determined by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

CRF-Calamity Relief Fund.

NQCF-National Calamity Contingency Fund.

SGRY(SC)-Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (Special Component).

(c) During Kharif 2003, Karnataka had declared parts of the State as drought affected. Rajasthan has not made any drought declaration during Kharif 2003 and no Memorandum for Central assistance has been received from the State.

In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Karnataka seeking assistance of Rs. 1881.55 crores from NCCF and 9.90 lakh MTs of foodgrains for relief employment for the drought of Kharif 2003, on the basis of visit by an Inter-Ministerial Central Team

during August, 2003, assistance of Rs. 115.86 crores from NCCF and 1.65 lakh MTs of foodgrains, free of cost, from special component of SGRY have so far been provided to Karnataka. A Team led by Area Officer of the State is visiting the State for a fresh assessment of requirements of financial assistance and foodgrains.

Railway projects in Kerala

172. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the electrification and doubling of lines in Kerala is yet to be completed;

(b) if so, the details including the fund sanctioned and utilized, the details of the lines completed alongwith the fund required for the completion of the work and the period for completion of the work;

(c) whether the work on the Angamaly-Sabari rail line has been initiated; and

(d) if so, the details including the progress of the work, the grant given for the work and the expected date of completion of the work, if any?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Position is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)The final location survey for the project from Angamali to Azhutha has been completed.The land acquisition has also been processed from Angamali end. Due to objection of the forest department, the alignment beyond Azhutha to Sabarimala is being revised avoiding the Periyar Tiger Sanctuary area. An outlay of Rs. 10 crore has been allocated for this work during 2003-04. No target date of completion has yet been fixed. The work would be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources.